

2022 -- H 8024

=====  
LC004751  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MARCH 25, 2022, AS THE 201ST ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE  
UNITED STATES

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Kazarian, Corvese, Ackerman, Shekarchi,  
Blazejewski, Ajello, Kennedy, Serpa, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: March 22, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On March 25, 1821, the Feast Day of the Annunciation, the Greek nation  
2 reclaimed its ancient heritage as the "Cradle of Democracy" by overthrowing the yoke of  
3 oppression which had enslaved its people since the fall of Constantinople in 1453. Conquered by  
4 the Ottoman Turks in the 15th century, Greece waged a successful war of Independence (1821-  
5 1829) and re-instituted a democratic form of government; and

6 WHEREAS, The People of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance  
7 to the Greek people during their struggle for independence; and

8 WHEREAS, The price for the people of Greece to hold onto their common values in their  
9 region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War  
10 II; and

11 WHEREAS, Greece is one of only three nations in the world, beyond the former British  
12 Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict over the  
13 last 100 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism,  
15 maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel, and demonstrates religious  
16 tolerance; and

17 WHEREAS, The Ancient Macedonians were Hellenes and the northern Province of  
18 Greece, Macedonia and the Hellenic descendants; and

19 WHEREAS, Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom,

1 democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; and

2 WHEREAS, Many American Philhellenes participated and fought in the Greek War of  
3 Independence. One such individual was George Wilson from Providence, Rhode Island, who  
4 served as a gunman in the Greek fleet, most notably in the battle against the Turkish navy in  
5 Nafaktos Bay, Greece; and

6 WHEREAS, Former United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Greece on  
7 October 4, 2019, where he met with Greek leaders and together they signed the Mutual Defense  
8 Corporation Agreement (MDCA); and

9 WHEREAS, Turkey has continued to destabilize the Aegean Sea and the Eastern  
10 Mediterranean Sea region. As a result, Greece, Israel and Cyprus have formed a trilateral  
11 cooperation agreement against the aggressive regional policies of Turkey. Each country's strong  
12 relationship with the United States, as well as the prospect of an Eastern Mediterranean pipeline  
13 enabling safe transmission of gas to Western Europe are critical to security and energy stability.  
14 Passage of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 will facilitate  
15 energy and security cooperation between the United States, Greece, Cyprus and Israel; and

16 WHEREAS, A high-level review of the United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue took  
17 place in Greece on September 28, 2020, which underscored Greece's importance to the United  
18 States as a geostrategic partner in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans and as an important  
19 NATO ally; and

20 WHEREAS, It is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate this Anniversary  
21 with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these two great  
22 nations were born; now, therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
24 celebrates March 25, 2022, as the 201st Anniversary of Greek Independence, reaffirms Rhode  
25 Island's abiding commitment to the magnificent principles of democracy and religious freedom,  
26 and urges Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and  
27 be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
29 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of  
30 Cranston, the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Pawtucket, the St. Spyridon Greek  
31 Orthodox Church of Newport, members of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, the  
32 Honorable Stratos Efthymiou, Consul General of the Hellenic Republic in Boston, Archbishop  
33 Elpidophoros of the Greek Archdiocese of America.

=====  
LC004751  
=====